

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5395

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: DEPUTY TSATSOS EJECTED FROM UDC

REF: ATHENS 6594

1. THE DISCIPLINARY COUNCIL OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER VOTED UNANIMOUSLY JULY 7 TO EJECT DEPUTY DIMITRIOS TSATSOS FROM THE PARTY (REFTEL).

2. THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC REACTION TO THIS DECISION FROM EITHER TSATSOS OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NEW FORCES FACTION OF THE PARTY. HOWEVER, TSATSOS' OFFICE DID RELEASE THE STATEMENT THAT TSATSOS MADE TO THE COUNCIL IN HIS OWN DEFENSE. IN SUM, TSATSOS' DEFENSE STATEMENT NOT ONLY SOUGHT TO REFUTE THE SPECIFIC CHARGE AGAINST HIM (VIOLATING PARTY DISCIPLINE) BUT ALSO ATTEMPTED TO MAKE THE CASE THAT THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIM WERE NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF PARTY DISCIPLINE BUT HAD A PROFOUND POLITICAL POINT; IN TSATSOS VIEW, WHETHER OR NOT THE PARTY WAS GOING TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE LEFT OF GREEK POLITICS.

3. IT WOULD ALMOST SEEM THAT UDC IS INTENT ON ESTABLISHING AN IMAGE OF DISORDER AND CONFUSION. REPORTEDLY, THE DISCIPLINARY COUNCIL WILL MEET IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO CONSIDER TWO OTHER CASES. ONE OF THESE INVOLVES CHARGES BROUGHT BY ANOTHER DEPUTY AGAINST DEPUTY KONIOTAKIS, AN OUTSPOKEN MEMBER OF THE PARTY'S RIGHT WING. THE OTHER IS CONFIDENTIAL

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THE REPORTED REQUEST BY PARTY LEADER GEORGE MAVORS THAT THE

COUNCIL EJECT DEPUTY BANDOUVAS FROM THE UDC. AND THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT DEPUTY TSATSOS MAY CHOOSE TO APPEAL HIS EJECTION FROM THE PARTY TO THE FULL PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, NOT TO MENTION THE CHANCE (THOUGH A SLIM ONE) THAT SOME OF TSATSOS' FELLOW NEW FORCES DEPUTIES MAY ULTIMATELY DECIDE TO RESIGN FROM THE UDC IN AN ACT OF SOLIDARITY.

4. COMMENT: AT LUNCH JULY 8 WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM, GEORGE MAVROS VOLUNTEERED THAT THOUGH TSATSOS WAS COMING TO SEE HIM PRIVATELY, THERE WAS NO RPT NO CHANCE THAT THE DEPUTY WOULD BE REINSTATED IN THE PARTY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, EVEN IF TSATSOS WERE TO MAKE A PUBLIC APOLOGY TO THE PARTY (WHICH MAVROS THINKS IS IMPOSSIBLE). MAVROS THINKS THAT THE ONLY CORRECT WAY FOR TSATSOS TO ACT IS TO REMAIN SILENT AND HOPE THAT IN THE MOREDISTANT FUTURE HE CAN AGAIN BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CENTER. MAVROS NOTED THAT THE INTERIOR COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH HAD CULTIVATED TSATSOS CAREFULLY IN THE PAST, WOULD HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN HIM NOW THAT HE IS OUTSIDE THE UDC, AND THEREFORE, SPECULATION THAT HE MIGHT FIND A POLITICAL HOME THERE WAS UNFOUNDED.
KUBISCH

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